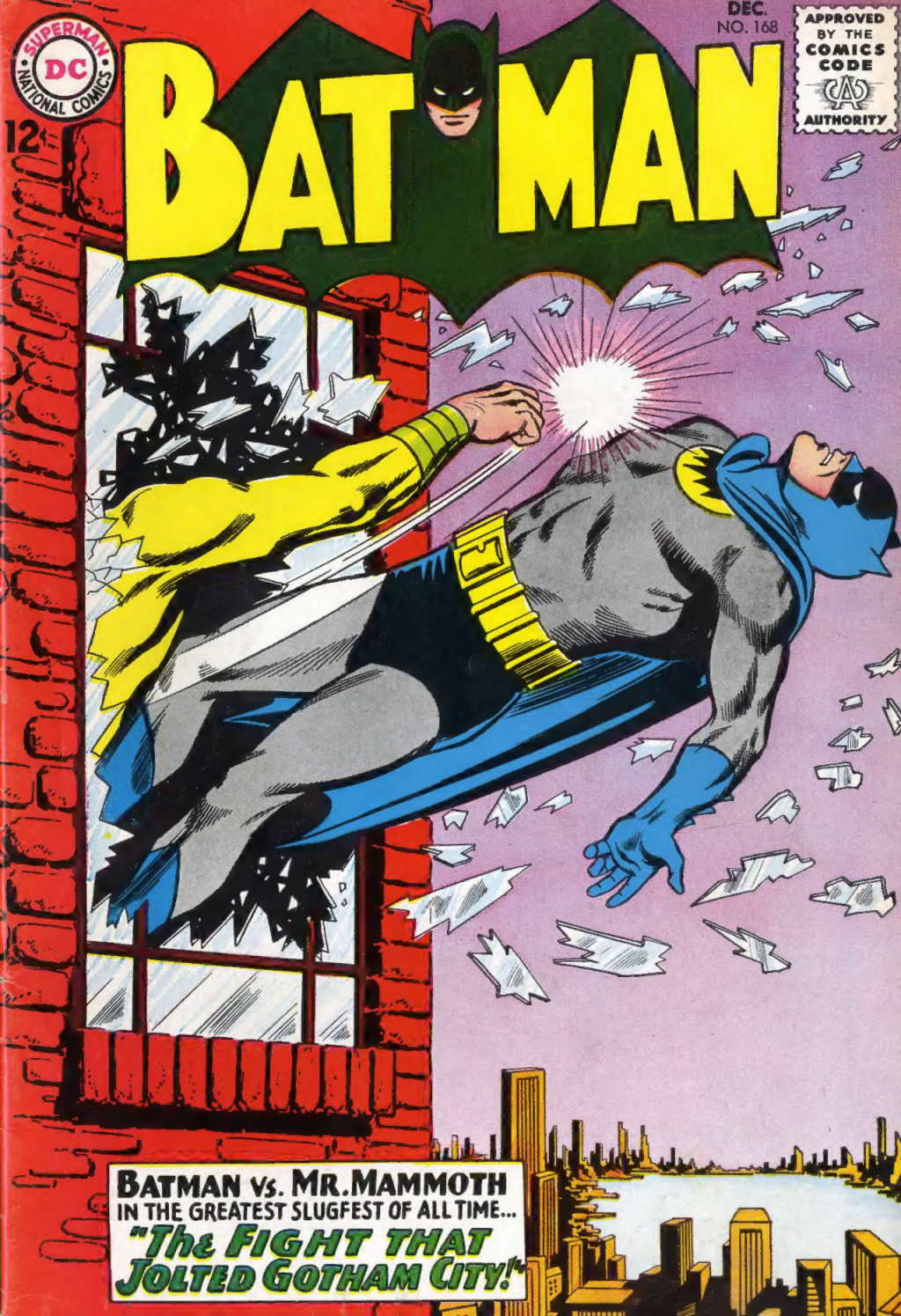
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
DEC.
NO. 168
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
BATMAN vs. MR. MAMMOTH
IN THE GREATEST SLUGFEST OF ALL TIME...
"The FIGHT THAT JOLTED GOTHAM CITY!"

"CHILDREN of TOMORROW!"

CELEBRATING UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24th

SOMEWHERE IN ASIA...
I'M HUNGRY...
... OR AFRICA...
IF ONLY WE HAD A DOCTOR, OR SOME MEDICINE...
... OR THE MIDDLE EAST OR SOUTH AMERICA...
WE HAVE NO SCHOOL, NO TEACHERS. IT IS HARD FOR THE CHILDREN TO LEARN TO READ OR WRITE.

AWARE OF THESE SUB-STANDARD CONDITIONS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED THE ***DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD***, WHICH STATES, AMONG OTHER PRINCIPLES, THAT...

"THE CHILD SHALL ENJOY SPECIAL PROTECTION, AND SHALL BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES, BY LAW AND BY OTHER MEANS, TO ENABLE HIM TO DEVELOP PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, MORALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND SOCIALLY IN A HEALTHY AND NORMAL MANNER AND IN CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY."

IMPLEMENTING THESE RIGHTS, THE U.N., THROUGH AGENCIES LIKE THE CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF), WORLD HEALTH AGENCY, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION, AND UNESCO, HAS BEEN ASSISTING COUNTRIES THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR HELP...
ONLY THEN WILL THE CHILD BE ABLE TO BE "BROUGHT UP IN A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE, FRIENDSHIP, AMONG PEOPLES, PEACE AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD."

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BATMAN
With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
COME ONE--COME ALL! SEE GOTHAM CITY'S FIGHT OF THE CENTURY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY TICKETS--IT'S FREE!-- AND ALL OF GOTHAM CITY IS THE ARENA! IT'S A REAL SLUGFEST, FEATURING MR. MAMMOTH, CIRCUS STRONG MAN, AND NONE OTHER THAN BATMAN HIMSELF! AND BEHIND THE FIGHT LURKS AN INTRIGUING MYSTERY--SO, TO SEE IT ALL, GET THERE EARLY FOR..
The FIGHT that JOLTED GOTHAM CITY!
BATMAN'S TAKING A BEATING, ROBIN! YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T STEP IN AND HELP?
NO! BATMAN WANTS TO HANDLE MR. MAMMOTH ALONE--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
BOB KANE

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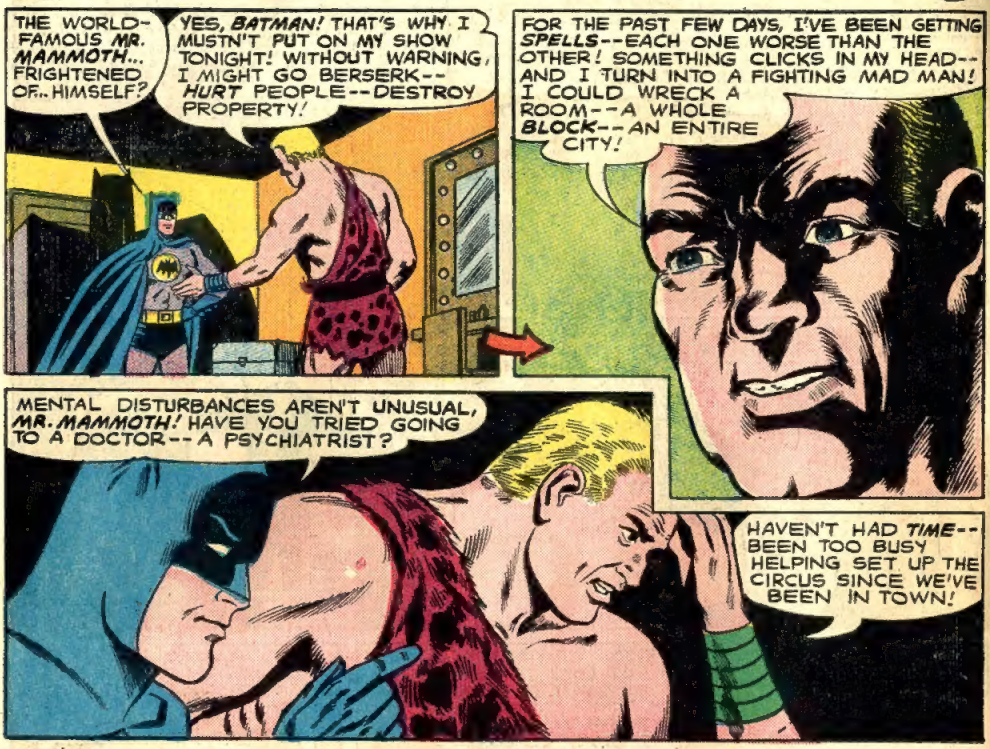
ALL OF GOTHAM CITY TURNS OUT FOR AN EARLY-MORNING CIRCUS PARADE--FEATURING THE FABULOUS STRONG MAN, MR. MAMMOTH!..
MR. MAMMOTH COMES TO GOTHAM CITY
SEE HIS AMAZING FEATS OF STRENGTH
AMONG THE EXCITED ONLOOKERS--BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON..
GOLLY, BRUCE! I HOPE THE CROWD'S AS BIG AT GOTHAM CITY GARDEN TONIGHT WHEN MR. MAMMOTH PUTS ON HIS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE!
THE CIRCUS HAS BEEN HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, DICK--BALLYHOOING TONIGHT'S OPENING SHOW! ONE THING'S SURE--WE'LL BE THERE!
BUT AN HOUR LATER, A BOMBSHELL BLAST AT GOTHAM CITY GARDEN...
I TELL YOU, BOSS, I JUST CAN'T PUT ON THAT PERFORMANCE TONIGHT!
YOU'LL LET THIS WHOLE TOWN DOWN IF YOU DON'T PERFORM! AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE KIDS IN THE PAL? HOW'LL THEY FEEL?
DON'T REMIND ME OF IT! I LIKE KIDS--AND I DON'T WANT TO LET ANYBODY DOWN... BUT I JUST CAN'T DO MY ACT TONIGHT!
YOU WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHY! THAT'S THE PART THAT BAFFLES ME!

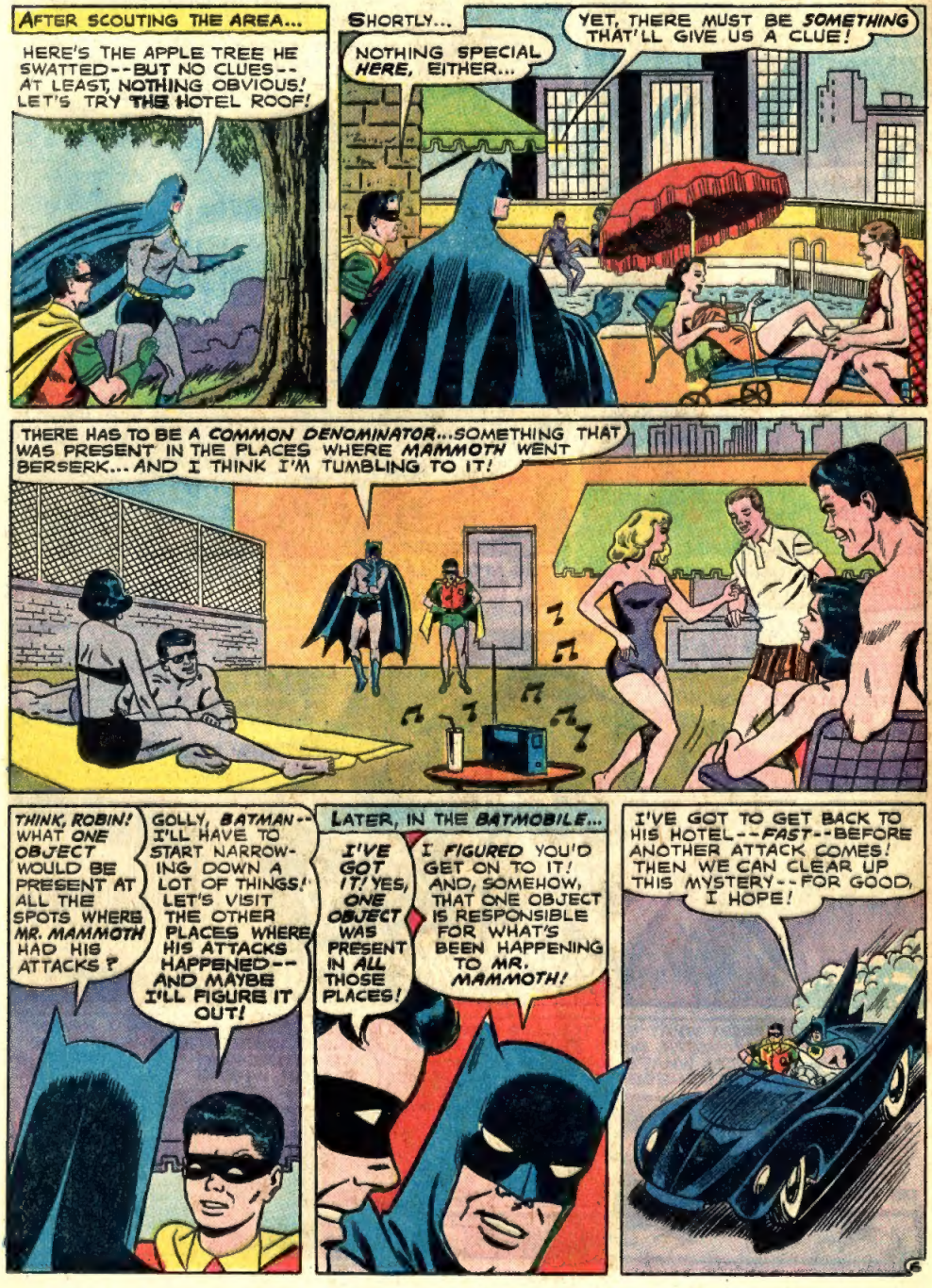
SHORTLY, OUTSIDE MR. MAMMOTH'S DRESSING ROOM...
CAN'T BUDGE HIM... I'LL NEED MORE "WEIGHT"! GET POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON ON THE PHONE, MISS PHILLIPS! HE'S THE PAL HONORARY CHAIRMAN! MAYBE HE CAN TALK SOME SENSE INTO THAT BIG LUG!
SOON, COMMISSIONER GORDON SHOWS UP IN THE STRONG MAN'S DRESSING ROOM...
BUT YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE, MR. MAMMOTH! WHY CAN'T YOU PUT ON YOUR SHOW TONIGHT?
SORRY, COMMISSIONER--BUT, I... JUST DON'T DARE!
BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BE HERE--EVEN TWO OF OUR PRIZE CITIZENS... BATMAN AND ROBIN!
BATMAN? DID YOU SAY BATMAN WILL BE HERE?
500 LBS.
YES-- I CHECKED WITH HIM JUST AWHILE AGO!
LISTEN, COMMISSIONER-- GET BATMAN HERE--FAST! MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE I CAN PERFORM TONIGHT-- WITH BATMAN'S HELP!
SOON CONTACTED ON THE HOT-LINE TELEPHONE, BATMAN APPEARS...
BATMAN! BOY! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HELLO, MR. MAMMOTH! COMMISSIONER GORDON TOLD ME YOU NEED MY HELP!
I DO, BATMAN-- I DO! I'M SCARED... SCARED STIFF...
SCARED OF.. WHAT?
SCARED OF.. MYSELF!

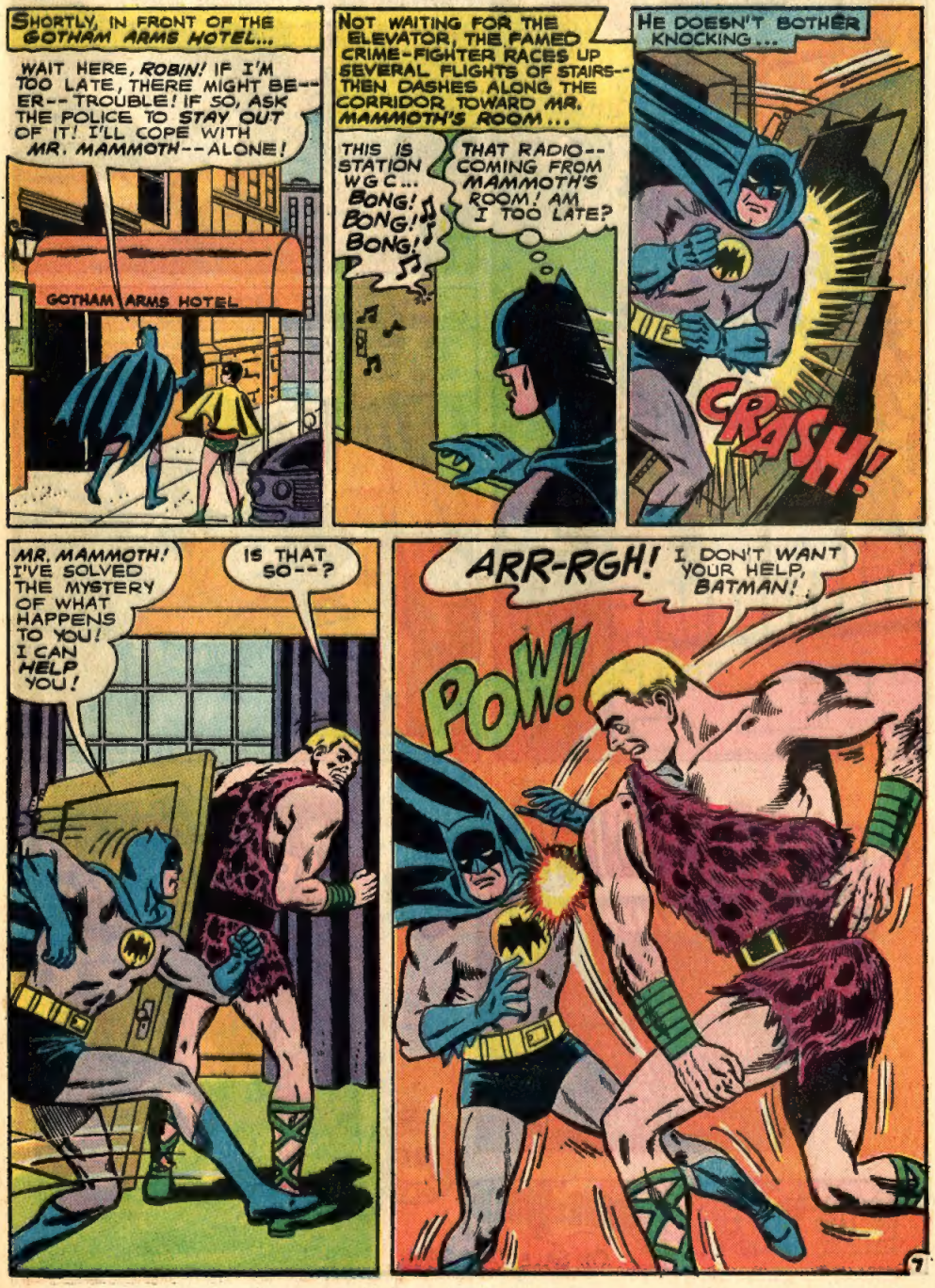

THE WORLD-FAMOUS MR. MAMMOTH... FRIGHTENED OF... HIMSELF?
YES, BATMAN! THAT'S WHY I MUSTN'T PUT ON MY SHOW TONIGHT! WITHOUT WARNING, I MIGHT GO BERSERK--HURT PEOPLE--DESTROY PROPERTY!
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, I'VE BEEN GETTING SPELLS--EACH ONE WORSE THAN THE OTHER! SOMETHING CLICKS IN MY HEAD--AND I TURN INTO A FIGHTING MAD MAN! I COULD WRECK A ROOM--A WHOLE BLOCK--AN ENTIRE CITY!
MENTAL DISTURBANCES AREN'T UNUSUAL, MR. MAMMOTH! HAVE YOU TRIED GOING TO A DOCTOR--A PSYCHIATRIST?
HAVEN'T HAD TIME--BEEN TOO BUSY HELPING SET UP THE CIRCUS SINCE WE'VE BEEN IN TOWN!

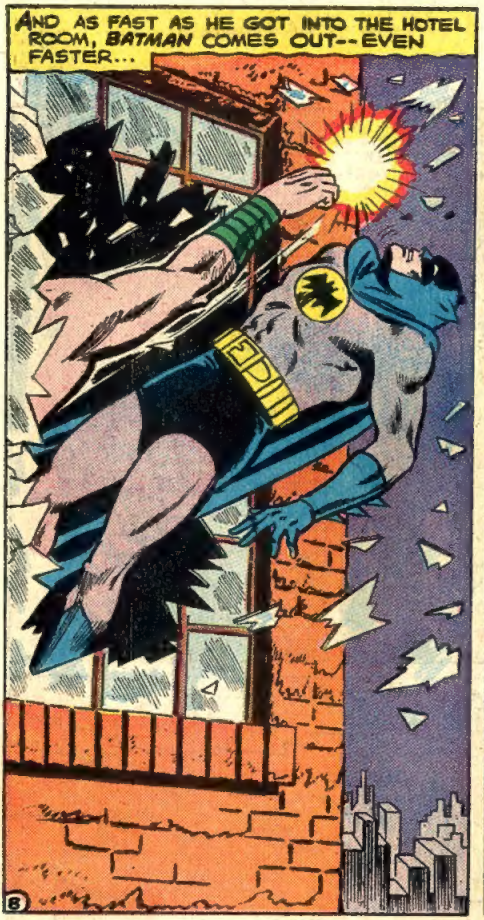
SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TRIGGERS THESE WILD SPELLS, MAYBE I CAN TRACK THEM DOWN! DO THEY ALWAYS OCCUR IN THE SAME PLACE... AT THE SAME TIME?
NO -- THERE'S NO CONNECTION--IN PLACE--OR TIME!

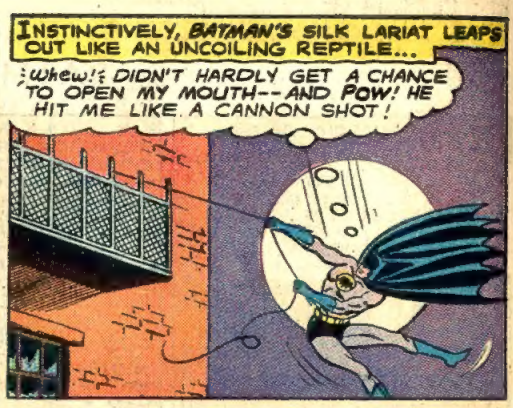
"IT HAPPENED FIRST WHEN WE WERE DRIVING TOWARD GOTHAM CITY--AND STOPPED AT A PICNIC AREA ON THE OUTSKIRTS FOR LUNCH..."
SOMETHING'S WRONG... LOSING CONTROL OF MYSELF... GOTTA GET AWAY WHERE NOBODY CAN SEE ME...

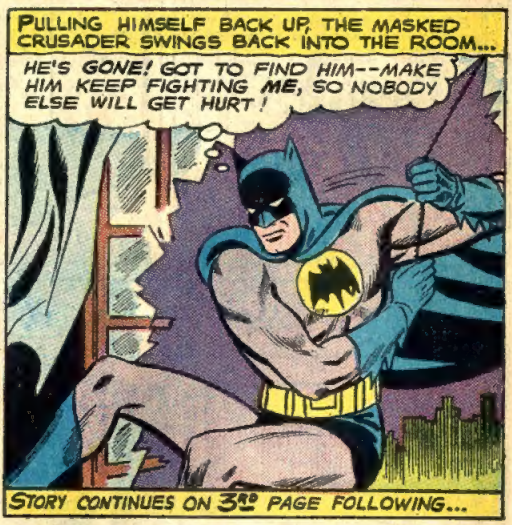
"I SNEAKED AWAY--TOOK MY SUDDEN ANGER OUT ON AN APPLE TREE... BELTED IT WITH ALL MY MIGHT!"
AR-R-RGH!
THWUNK!
"THEN, THE STRANGE FEELING WENT AWAY AFTER A COUPLE OF MINUTES..."
"THE NEXT DAY, AT THE POOL ON MY HOTEL ROOF--IT HIT ME AGAIN...STRONGER THIS TIME!"
ANOTHER ATTACK...WORSE THIS TIME... HAVE TO FIND A PLACE WHERE NOBODY'S AROUND--MIGHT HURT SOMEONE!
"THERE WAS NOBODY IN THE POOL...I GOT IN FAST, AND STAYED UNDER...TILL I THOUGHT MY LUNGS WOULD EXPLODE..."
"THIS ATTACK LASTED TWICE AS LONG AS THE FIRST ONE--FOR THE FULL FOUR MINUTES I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO STAY UNDER WATER..."
IT HAPPENED IN TWO OTHER PLACES ON THE THIRD DAY--YESTERDAY! SO I'M WORRIED THAT IF IT HAPPENS AT MY PERFORMANCE TONIGHT, I'LL GO HAYWIRE AND... AND...
YES, I UNDERSTAND! I'LL GET ON THIS MYSTERY RIGHT AWAY, MR. MAMMOTH! MEANTIME, LOCK YOURSELF IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM! I'LL CHECK WITH YOU LATER!
SOON, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE DRIVING TO A PICNIC AREA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME ABOUT MR. MAMMOTH, WE'D BETTER FIND OUT SOON WHAT'S CAUSING HIS WILDNESS!
YES, ROBIN--ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT CLUE WE'RE LOOKING FOR AT THESE PLACES WHERE THE ATTACKS ORIGINATED!
GOTHAM CITY PICNIC AREA


AFTER SCOUTING THE AREA...
HERE'S THE APPLE TREE HE SWATTED--BUT NO CLUES--AT LEAST, NOTHING OBVIOUS! LET'S TRY THE HOTEL ROOF!
SHORTLY...
NOTHING SPECIAL HERE, EITHER...
YET, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT'LL GIVE US A CLUE!
THERE HAS TO BE A COMMON DENOMINATOR...SOMETHING THAT WAS PRESENT IN THE PLACES WHERE MAMMOTH WENT BERSERK... AND I THINK I'M TUMBLING TO IT!
THINK, ROBIN! WHAT ONE OBJECT WOULD BE PRESENT AT ALL THE SPOTS WHERE MR. MAMMOTH HAD HIS ATTACKS?
GOLLY, BATMAN--I'LL HAVE TO START NARROWING DOWN A LOT OF THINGS! LET'S VISIT THE OTHER PLACES WHERE HIS ATTACKS HAPPENED--AND MAYBE I'LL FIGURE IT OUT!
LATER, IN THE BATMOBILE...
I'VE GOT IT! YES, ONE OBJECT WAS PRESENT IN ALL THOSE PLACES!
I FIGURED YOU'D GET ON TO IT! AND, SOMEHOW, THAT ONE OBJECT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO MR. MAMMOTH!
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO HIS HOTEL--FAST--BEFORE ANOTHER ATTACK COMES! THEN WE CAN CLEAR UP THIS MYSTERY--FOR GOOD, I HOPE!


SHORTLY, IN FRONT OF THE GOTHAM ARMS HOTEL...
WAIT HERE, ROBIN! IF I'M TOO LATE, THERE MIGHT BE--ER--TROUBLE! IF SO, ASK THE POLICE TO STAY OUT OF IT! I'LL COPE WITH MR. MAMMOTH--ALONE!
GOTHAM ARMS HOTEL
NOT WAITING FOR THE ELEVATOR, THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER RACES UP SEVERAL FLIGHTS OF STAIRS--THEN DASHES ALONG THE CORRIDOR TOWARD MR. MAMMOTH'S ROOM...
THIS IS STATION WGC... BONG! BONG! BONG!
THAT RADIO--COMING FROM MAMMOTH'S ROOM! AM I TOO LATE?
HE DOESN'T BOTHER KNOCKING...
CRASH!
MR. MAMMOTH! I'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU! I CAN HELP YOU!
IS THAT SO--?
ARR-RGH!
I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP, BATMAN!
POW!




INSTINCTIVELY, BATMAN'S SILK LARIAT LEAPS OUT LIKE AN UNCOILING REPTILE...
Whew!: DIDN'T HARDLY GET A CHANCE TO OPEN MY MOUTH--AND POW! HE HIT ME LIKE A CANNON SHOT!


PULLING HIMSELF BACK UP, THE MASKED CRUSADER SWINGS BACK INTO THE ROOM...
HE'S GONE! GOT TO FIND HIM--MAKE HIM KEEP FIGHTING ME, SO NOBODY ELSE WILL GET HURT!
STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING...

METAMORPHO
The ELEMENT MAN
...ABLE TO WILL THE CHEMICALS OF HIS BODY INTO ANY SHAPE OR FORM!
THE BRAVEST... THE BOLDEST... THE MOST BIZARRE HERO OF ALL TIME!

BRAVE AND THE BOLD
METAMORPHO
The ELEMENT MAN
HOW DOES HE USE THE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS IN HIS BODY...
...TO ALTER HIS VERY FORM?
SEE THE AMAZING PONDERS OF THE WORLD'S MOST FANTASTIC HERO HERO!

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BUT NOBODY CAN!
?
'COURSE IF THEY DID— THEY'D CATCH MY LUCKY CHARMS!
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'TIS A CHARMIN' CEREAL...
SIMPLY CHARMIN'!
TO THE RESCUE!
HEY! WHA—
CHARMIN'!
HMF! SOME RESCUE!
M-M-M.
LUCKY CHARMS
NEW TOASTED OAT CEREAL WITH
MARSHMALLOW BITS IN LUCKY SHAPES!
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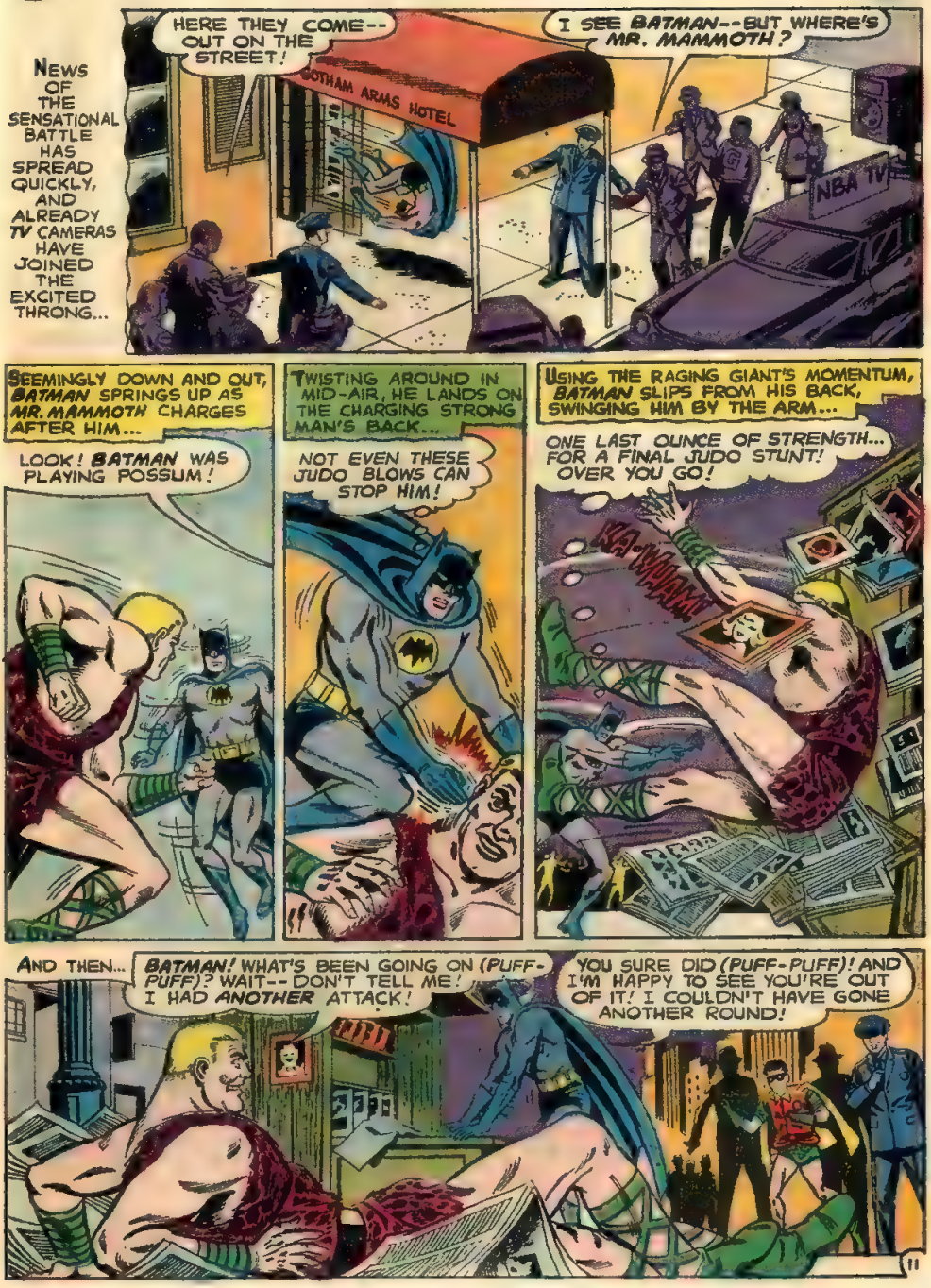
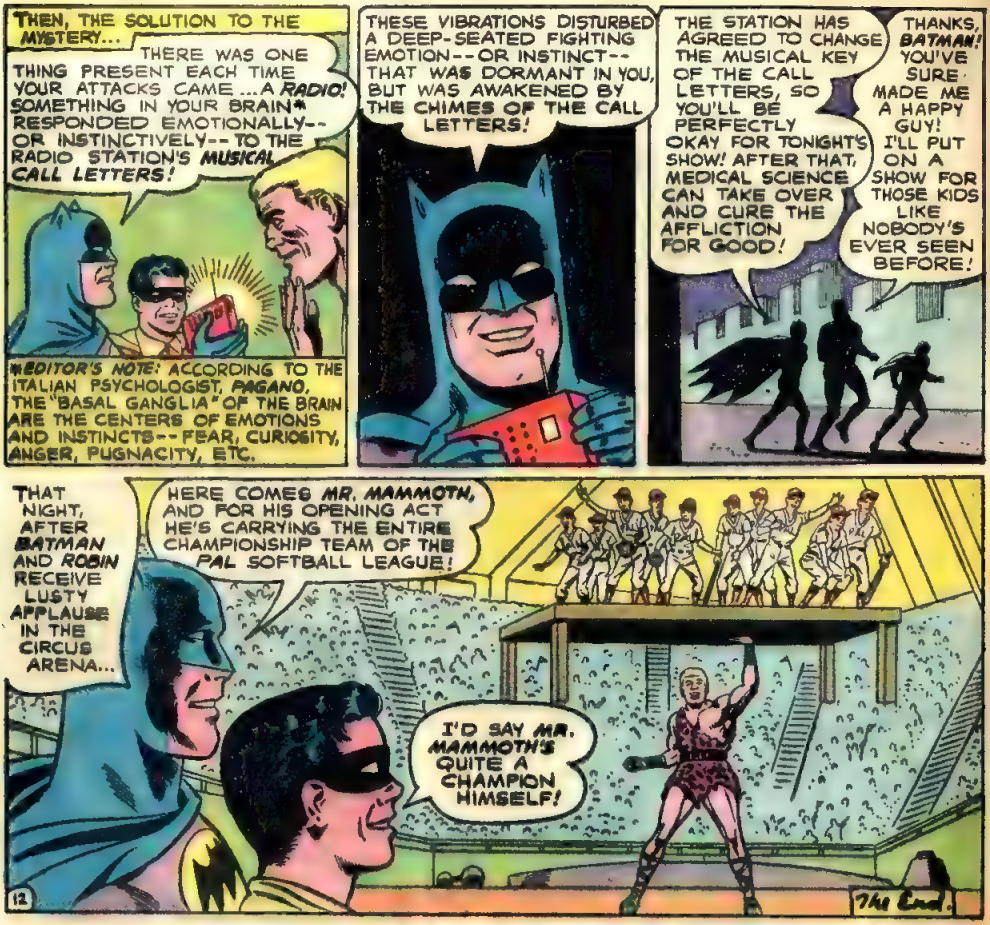
THE FIGHT THAT JOLTED GOTHAM CITY! PART 2

IN THE HALLWAY, WHERE THE CURIOUS PEEK OUT TO SEE THE CAUSE OF THE RUCKUS, BATMAN SPOTS HIS GIANT ADVERSARY...
CLOSE YOUR DOORS, FOLKS--AND LOCK 'EM!
HERE I AM, MR. MAMMOTH! I'M YOUR TARGET!
HUH? I THOUGHT I GOT RID OF YOU!
LIKE A BATTERING RAM, THE CRIME-FIGHTER PLOWS INTO THE MIGHTY MAMMOTH, BUT...
ULLPS! LIKE HITTING A STONE WALL!
THEN THEY COME TO GRIPS--LIKE TWO TITANS...
NO CHANCE TO USE JUDO--GOT TO KEEP HIM FROM GETTING THOSE STEEL-CLAMP ARMS AROUND ME!
SEEING ONLY ONE WAY "OUT," BATMAN TRIPS HIS FOE...
MAYBE THIS WILL DO THE TRICK--
IT DIDN'T WORK! WE'RE BOUNCING DOWN... LIKE A DRIBBLING BASKETBALL!
KWHUMP!
KWHUMP!
KWHUMP!

DOWN THE STAIRS--AND EVENTUALLY INTO THE SPACIOUS LOBBY...
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT US TO GIVE BATMAN A HAND, ROBIN?
NO! HE SAID STAY OUT OF IT--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
BR-R-RUTHER! THAT WAS SOME WALLOP! I THOUGHT I SAW ALL THE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE!
WATCH IT, BATMAN! HERE HE COMES AGAIN!
GETTING A RUNNING START, MR. MAMMOTH TRIES TO POUNCE ON BATMAN, PIN HIM WITH A "PILE-DRIVER PRESS"...
AR-R-RGH! I'LL FLATTEN YOU--
A QUICK SIDE-ROLL, AND...
TWUNK!
WITH BOTH ON THEIR FEET AGAIN, THE STRONG MAN LASHES OUT FIERCELY--AND CONNECTS!
CRACK!
WROOSH! WROOSH!


NEWS OF THE SENSATIONAL BATTLE HAS SPREAD QUICKLY, AND ALREADY TV CAMERAS HAVE JOINED THE EXCITED THRONG...
HERE THEY COME-- OUT ON THE STREET!
GOTHAM ARMS HOTEL
I SEE BATMAN--BUT WHERE'S MR. MAMMOTH?
NBA TV
SEEMINGLY DOWN AND OUT, BATMAN SPRINGS UP AS MR. MAMMOTH CHARGES AFTER HIM...
LOOK! BATMAN WAS PLAYING POSSUM!
TWISTING AROUND IN MID-AIR, HE LANDS ON THE CHARGING STRONG MAN'S BACK...
NOT EVEN THESE JUDO BLOWS CAN STOP HIM!
USING THE RAGING GIANT'S MOMENTUM, BATMAN SLIPS FROM HIS BACK, SWINGING HIM BY THE ARM...
ONE LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH... FOR A FINAL JUDO STUNT! OVER YOU GO!
KA-WAAAM!
AND THEN...
BATMAN! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON (PUFF-PUFF)? WAIT-- DON'T TELL ME! I HAD ANOTHER ATTACK!
YOU SURE DID (PUFF-PUFF)! AND I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE OUT OF IT! I COULDN'T HAVE GONE ANOTHER ROUND!


THEN, THE SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY...
THERE WAS ONE THING PRESENT EACH TIME YOUR ATTACKS CAME ...A RADIO! SOMETHING IN YOUR BRAIN* RESPONDED EMOTIONALLY--OR INSTINCTIVELY--TO THE RADIO STATION'S MUSICAL CALL LETTERS!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PSYCHOLOGIST, PAGANO, THE "BASAL GANGLIA" OF THE BRAIN ARE THE CENTERS OF EMOTIONS AND INSTINCTS--FEAR, CURIOSITY, ANGER, PUGNACITY, ETC.
THESE VIBRATIONS DISTURBED A DEEP-SEATED FIGHTING EMOTION--OR INSTINCT--THAT WAS DORMANT IN YOU, BUT WAS AWAKENED BY THE CHIMES OF THE CALL LETTERS!
THE STATION HAS AGREED TO CHANGE THE MUSICAL KEY OF THE CALL LETTERS, SO YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY OKAY FOR TONIGHT'S SHOW! AFTER THAT, MEDICAL SCIENCE CAN TAKE OVER AND CURE THE AFFLICTION FOR GOOD!
THANKS, BATMAN! YOU'VE SURE MADE ME A HAPPY GUY! I'LL PUT ON A SHOW FOR THOSE KIDS LIKE NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!
THAT NIGHT, AFTER BATMAN AND ROBIN RECEIVE LUSTY APPLAUSE IN THE CIRCUS ARENA...
HERE COMES MR. MAMMOTH, AND FOR HIS OPENING ACT HE'S CARRYING THE ENTIRE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE PAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE!
I'D SAY MR. MAMMOTH'S QUITE A CHAMPION HIMSELF!
12
The End

WHOSE FACE DOES THE ENEMY SEE IN HIS SMOKING SIGHTS?... GI JOE!

WHOSE FACE DOES THE ENEMY SEE IN HIS WILDEST NIGHTMARES?... GI JOE!

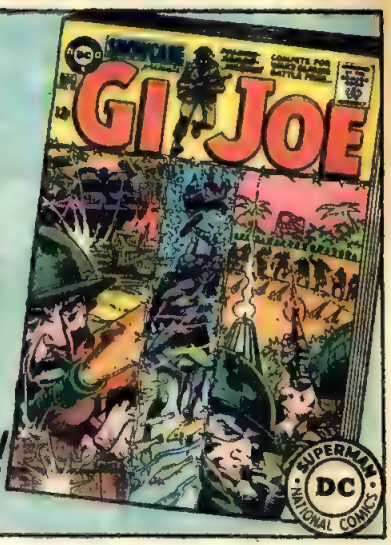
BUT--WHO REALLY IS GI JOE?

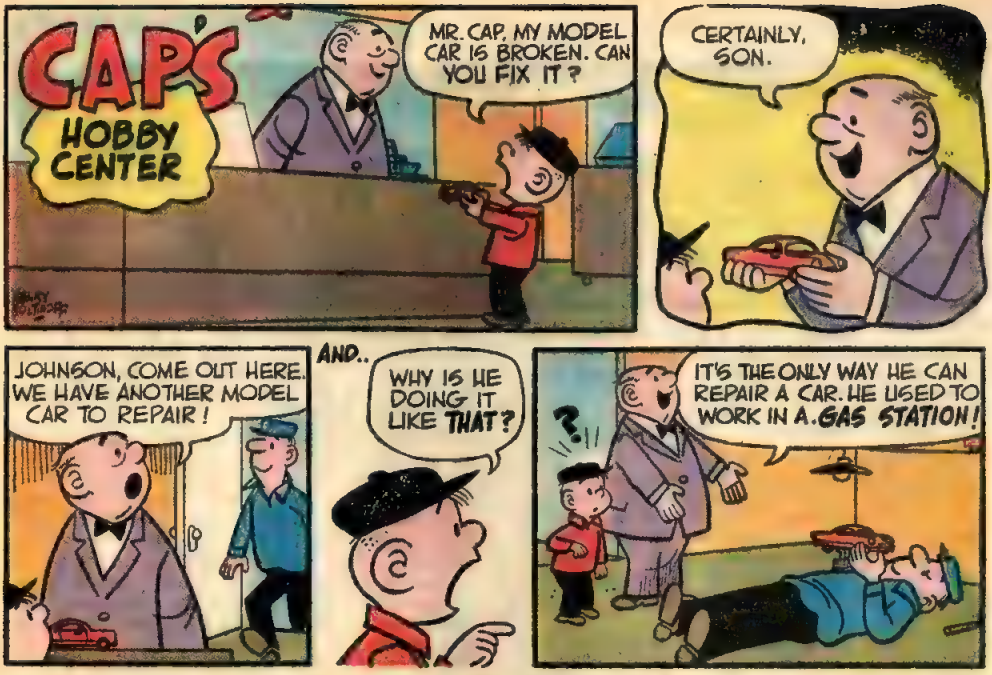
THE SOLDIER WHO WALKS THROUGH EXPLODING STEEL? THE FROGMAN WHO PLAYS TAG WITH A TORPEDO? THE MARINE WHO CAN ONLY SPELL--ATTACK?

SHOWCASE presents GI JOE!

IN THE MOST SENSATIONAL PRIZE CONTEST SINCE THE FIRST ARROW WAS FIRED--IN WHICH YOU--YOU--YOU! CAN JOIN THE UNIQUE BATTLE JURY IN DECIDING THE FATE OF G.I. JOE!

GET YOUR COPY NOW!




CAP'S
HOBBY CENTER
MR. CAP, MY MODEL CAR IS BROKEN. CAN YOU FIX IT?
CERTAINLY, SON.
JOHNSON, COME OUT HERE. WE HAVE ANOTHER MODEL CAR TO REPAIR!
AND..
WHY IS HE DOING IT LIKE THAT?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE CAN REPAIR A CAR. HE USED TO WORK IN A GAS STATION!

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Dear Editor: I always like to see a science-fictional theme handled adultly and in a sensible way as in the August issue's "Man Who Quit the Human Race."

As all of us in fandom know, the new look policy in *Batman* and *Detective Comics* will mean newer and better stories like those featured in the current *Batman*.

All previous attempts at faked-up science-fiction have been wiped off the somewhat depreciated slate of the dynamic duo. "The Man Who Quit the Human Race" was different than all others in that the science element was just used for what it was intended . . . to make the tale plausible, and not serve as a cover-up for "A monster is on the loose, boys" type plot.

Equally superb on all counts of quality was your "Dilemma of the Detective's Daughter." Other attempts at giving Bruce (*Batman*) Wayne a possible romantic interest had gotten so out of hand that they just about made the stories meaningless and dull.

Perhaps the best (and most joyful) part of both stories was Bob Kane's return to the top as a superb comics illustrator.—LEONARD TIRADO, 182½ Regent St., Saratoga, N.Y.

(Whenever a science element is incorporated into our stories we do our best to keep it—elementary. But even the most elementary of scientific terminology can be questioned, as per the next letter. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: On the last page of "The Dilemma of the Detective's Daughter," *Robin* is shown holding a piece of paper with chemical symbols written on it. On this paper, you gave the chemical symbol for *Argon* as *A*.

I looked this up in the World Book Encyclopedia and it said *Ar* was the chemical symbol for *Argon*. Am I right or wrong?—JOHN BONACCORSI, 1114 St. Vincent St., Phila, Pa., 19111

(Wrong! The official chemical symbol for *Argon* is *A*. But at least you get an *A* for effort in trying to catch us in a mistake!—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I found a mistake in "Dilemma of the Detective's Daughter." On page 6, panel 5, Miss Patricia Powell says, "I'm joining the *Alpha Epsilon* Fraternity . . ." She should have said *Sorority*, as such college student societies are called. —DAVID NAGLE, 801 Main St., E. Rochester, N.Y.

(Right!—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I know why *Batman* and *Robin's* eyes do not show through the holes in their masks. It is because the white areas are really clever plastic lenses of the two-way mirror type. They can see out very clearly, but no one can see in. Therefore they can never be recognized by the color of their eyes. These ingenious plastic lenses also protect the masked crusaders' eyes from dust, dirt, and the glare of the sun. Am I right?—LINDA PARRIS, Rt. 3, Black Bluff Rd., Rome, Ga.

(Sorry, we can't give you a right or wrong answer on this one—as it's top secret.—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I was looking through my stamp collection a few days ago and I found something that might interest all *Batman* fans. A Turkish stamp that I own (Scott #1448) shows the picture of an oil refinery and it reads "Batman Petrol Rafinerisi"—or Batman Gasoline Refineries. How about that!—BOB ROZAKIS, 72 Joan Ct., Elmont, N.Y., 11003

(On a similar note, we recently received a letter from a reader postmarked Bat Cave, North Carolina! If any readers know of any other *Batman* tie-ins, we'd be happy to acknowledge them.—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: Recently, while glancing through my collection of *Batman* comics, I came upon an *Annual* which contained pictures of the first *Detective* comic *Batman* appeared in.

After checking the dates on the magazine and doing some hasty computation, I suddenly realized that *Batman* has appeared in DC comics for 25 years as of this year's May issue of *Detective Comics!*

In one way I'm startled, for in the past 25 years countless masked adventurers have come, enjoyed brief popularity and vanished into the misty limbo of "comic mag heaven" never to be disturbed again. But actually no one should be surprised, because Bob Kane's ace crime-fighter is no ordinary "mag hero."

Batman is the character after which all later heroes (in one way or another) have been modeled and only it of all its imitators has survived the acid test of time to become the world's most successful comic magazine, proving to be as exciting to me as it was to my predecessors.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to Bob Kane for his success with *Batman* over the years and I wish him good fortune as the creator of the world's greatest, most realistic comic character—BATMAN— STEVEN JOHNSON, 681 Maple St., Indiana, Pa.

(The 80 Page GIANT BATMAN—on sale the end of October—is a Special Silver Anniversary Issue. *Batman* fans—old and new—have a treat in store for them!—*Editor*)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10022.

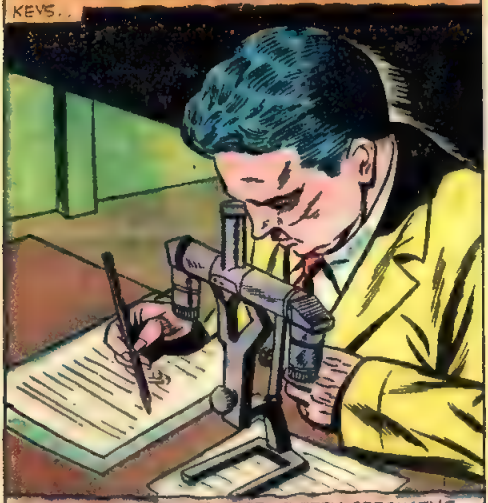
ROCKY and BULLWINKLE
Cheerios
ARE CHEERIOS YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL, BULLWINKLE?
TO BE SURE, ROCK!
CHEERIOS 'N' MILK GIVE US PEOPLE MUSCLE-MAKIN' PROTEIN...
...AND GO-GO-GO!
YOU MEAN EVERYONE SHOULD GO WITH THE GOODNESS OF CHEERIOS?
CERTAINLY!
ZOOM!
GENERAL MILLS
CRASH!
BUT THEY SHOULD WATCH WHERE THEY'RE GOING!

CRIME-WRITING CLUES!

A FORGER WHO MAKES A PERFECT COPY OF A VICTIM'S SIGNATURE CAN EASILY BE APPREHENDED BECAUSE NO ONE EVER SIGNS HIS NAME THE SAME WAY TWICE. (ACTUALLY, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE CHANCES OF A PERSON DUPLICATING HIS OWN SIGNATURE IS ONE IN 931 TRILLION!)

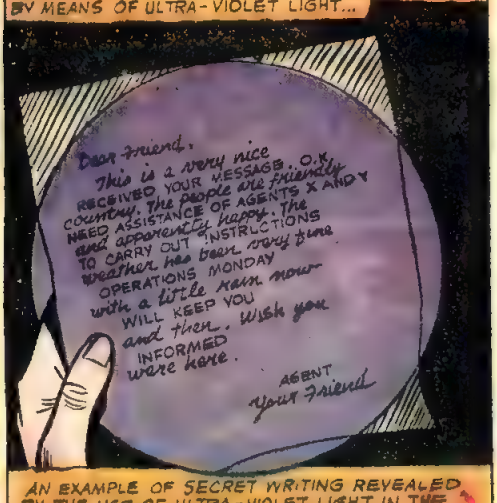
ANONYMOUS LETTER-WRITERS USING THE LEFT HAND CAN BE TRAPPED BY COMPARING THE ANGLES, CURVES, LETTER AND WORD SPACING IN AN IDENTICAL NOTE WRITTEN WITH NORMAL RIGHT-HAND WRITING...

TYPEWRITTEN BLACKMAIL LETTERS CAN EASILY BE TRACED TO A SPECIFIC TYPEWRITER--BECAUSE EACH TYPEWRITER HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE TYPING KEYS...



F.B.I MAN COMPARES TYPEWRITTEN SPECIMENS TO DETERMINE SOURCE OF AN EXTORTION NOTE...

SHOULD TYPEWRITTEN PORTIONS OF A WILL BE ERASED AND ALTERED WITH THE SAME TYPEWRITER, THE ORIGINAL WILL CAN STILL BE REVEALED BY MEANS OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT...


Dear friend,
This is a very nice country. The people are friendly and apparently happy. The weather has been very fine
OPERATIONS MONDAY
with a little rain now and then. Wish you were here.
AGENT
Your Friend

AN EXAMPLE OF SECRET WRITING REVEALED BY THE USE OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IN THE DOCUMENT SECTION OF THE F.B.I.

ANOTHER "MYSTERY ANALYSTS of GOTHAM CITY" THRILLER!

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

TO APPREHEND A CRIMINAL, THERE MUST BE A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY--BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU KNOW THE CRIMINAL, BUT CAN'T FIND THE CLUE TO PIN THE GUILT ON HIM? THAT IS THE TURNABOUT SITUATION CONFRONTING BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY SET OUT TO DEMONSTRATE...

HOW TO SOLVE A PERFECT CRIME-- in REVERSE!

A HELICOPTER DESCENDS ON THE GROUNDS OF A RAMBLING ESTATE...

AND FROM IT STEPS BATMAN, HERALDED THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...

...FOLLOWED BY MYSTERY NOVELIST, KAYE DAYE, WHOSE FICTION STRIKINGLY PARALLELS ACTUAL CASES--AND SOLVES THEM!

SERIOUS-THINKING PROF. RALPH VERN, OF STATE UNIVERSITY, WHOSE HOBBY IS TINKERING IN A LAB--TO CATCH CROOKS!

AND POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

THESE, AND OTHERS WITH THEM, ARE MEMBERS OF GOTHAM CITY'S FAMOUS MYSTERY ANALYSTS CLUB, OUT FOR A "BUSINESS" WEEK-END AT THEIR SPRAWLING ESTATE. NOW, AS THEY ENTER THE LIVING ROOM...

WELCOME, CLUB MEMBERS! THIS TAPE RECORDER WAS TIMED TO BEGIN OPERATION THE MOMENT WE SET FOOT IN HERE!

!!

??

IN FASCINATION, THE ANALYSTS LISTEN TO THE HIGH-PITCHED VOICE...
I SAY "WE" BECAUSE I AM ONE OF YOU! AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO IDENTIFY ME BY MY VOICE--IT'S NOT ONLY DISGUISED, BUT CAN'T BE DISTINGUISHED AS MALE OR FEMALE...
I'VE AWAITED THIS MOMENT, WHEN WE TOP MYSTERY-SOLVING EXPERTS WOULD GATHER HERE, TO ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME!
I WILL NOW PAUSE WHILE ONE OF YOU ASKS WHETHER THIS IS SOME KIND OF A PRANK...
AMAZING! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO ASK!
FOR YEARS, I'VE DREAMED OF COMMITTING THE PERFECT CRIME, BUT TO DO SO, I HAD TO FIND OUT HOW AND WHY OTHERS FAILED, SO...
... I COMMENCED SOLVING CASES--AND LIKED MY WORK! I BECAME SO ADEPT AT IT THAT, TO MY UTTER SURPRISE, I WAS MADE A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB! INCIDENTALLY, I INTEND TO REMAIN IN THE CLUB, AFTER YOU'VE FAILED TO SOLVE MY CRIME...
SOMEBODY MUST TAKE US FOR FOOLS!
I ANTICIPATE DOUBTS AMONG YOU! WE'LL DISPEL THEM MOMENTARILY! ANYWAY, MY CRIME WAS SO PERFECT THAT NOBODY--AS YET--EVEN KNOWS ABOUT IT!

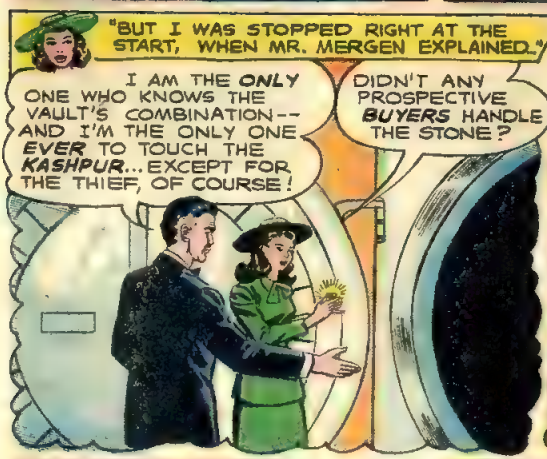
BUT, MY TRIUMPH CAME NOT IN MERELY COMMITTING THE CRIME, BUT IN LETTING IT BE KNOWN! NOW, IMAGINE MY JOY IN WATCHING THE GREAT MYSTERY ANALYSTS TRYING TO SOLVE IT! WHAT'S MORE...
...I'M GOING TO JOIN YOU AS YOU TRY TO CRACK THIS CASE! NOW--MY CRIME! I STOLE THE KASHPUR DIAMOND!
THE KASHPUR--A MILLION-DOLLAR BEAUTY!
REMEMBER, I CAN BE ANY ONE OF YOU...
NEWSMAN ART SADDOWS...
COMMISSIONER GORDON...
PROF. RALPH VERN...
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON...
ARMCHAIR SLEUTH MARTIN TELLMAN...
MYSTERY NOVELIST KAYE DAYE...
OR... BATMAN HIMSELF!
THAT'S ALL! I'M SIGNING OFF! GOOD HUNTING!
THIS MUST BE A PRANK! THE KASHPUR DIAMOND HASN'T BEEN REPORTED STOLEN!
CLICK!
REMEMBER--THE MYSTERY VOICE SAID HIS CRIME WASN'T KNOWN YET!
THE KASHPUR DIAMOND HAS BEEN AT MERGEN'S JEWELRY STORE FOR YEARS! I'LL CHECK OUT MR. X'S STORY!

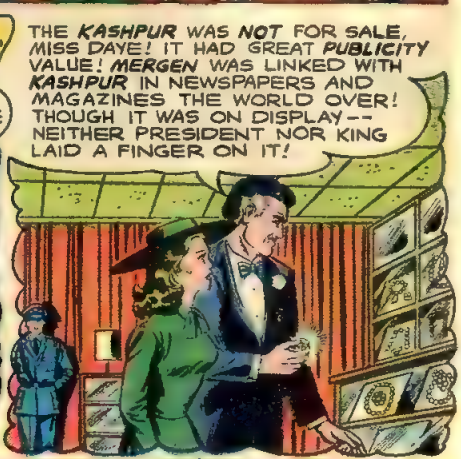
AT THE FAMOUS JEWELER'S...
YES, BATMAN--THIS IS MR. MERGEN! WHAT'S THAT?! YOU MUST BE JESTING! VERY WELL--I'LL GET THE KASHPUR NOW, JUST TO SATISFY YOU... HANG ON...
THEN, INSIDE A LARGE VAULT...
BATMAN MUST BE PULLING MY LEG! HERE'S MY BEAUTY--SAFE AND SOUND! BY GEORGE! WHAT PERFECTION!
SUDDENLY, A STARTLED PAUSE...
STRANGE -- I THOUGHT I DETECTED A FLAW! IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE...
I'LL CALL YOU BACK, BATMAN! IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING, BUT I WANT TO SUBJECT THE KASHPUR TO AN INTENSIVE EXAMINATION! SOMETHING'S ODD...
LATER...
BATMAN! IT'S INCREDIBLE, BUT THE KASHPUR IS GONE! IT'S BEEN REPLACED BY AN IMITATION!
THEN WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!
MR. X WASN'T SPOOFING! HE DID STEAL THE KASHPUR!
TO THINK--ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS, A CRIMINAL! BUT ALREADY MR. X HAS TIPPED HIS HAND--BY REVEALING HIS CRIME! NOW IT'S UP TO US TO TRAP HIM--WHOEVER HE IS!

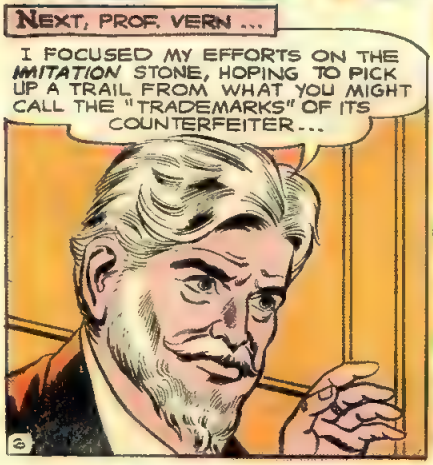
THAT NIGHT, AS THE OTHER CRIME-SOLVING EXPERTS DIG INTO THE BAFFLING DIAMOND PUZZLER, BATMAN IS ELSEWHERE, WITH ROBIN!...
EASY DOES IT, ROBIN! WE DON'T WANT THE GOLD SMUGGLERS TO SPOT US!
BUT AS THEY STEAL ON DECK...
AHOY! BATMAN AND ROBIN! ABOARD SHIP!
THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG!
RUSH 'EM!
SMASH 'EM!
THIS CALLS FOR A CHANGE OF PLAN! CATCH, ROBIN!
IN A FLANKING MOVEMENT, THE CRUSADERS RACE AROUND--AND PAST-- THE THUGS...
LOOK OUT-- WE'RE GONNA... ULLPS!
AND WHEN A COAST GUARD CUTTER PULLS ALONGSIDE...
GOLLY, BATMAN! NOW THAT WE'VE SCUTTLED THOSE SMUGGLERS, WE CAN HOP RIGHT ON THE KASHPUR DIAMOND CASE!
UH-- NO, NOT YET!

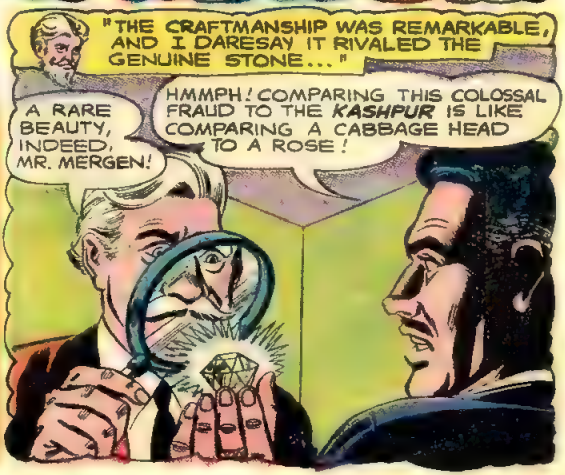
BUT UNLESS WE GET ON THE CASE, HOW CAN WE EXPECT TO SOLVE IT?
BY NOT TRYING TO SOLVE IT! I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, BUT I'LL KNOW MORE WHEN THE OTHER MEMBERS MAKE THEIR REPORTS!

TWO DAYS LATER, AT THE CLUB ROOM OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS...
AS USUAL, WE'LL FIRST GIVE OUR VERBAL REPORTS, TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE THINGS JIBE-- THEN, OUR WRITTEN REPORTS CAN COME LATER! MISS DAYE...
MY INITAL FEELING WAS THAT WE WERE DEALING WITH AN "INSIDE JOB"!


"BUT I WAS STOPPED RIGHT AT THE START, WHEN MR. MERGEN EXPLAINED..."
I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE VAULT'S COMBINATION-- AND I'M THE ONLY ONE EVER TO TOUCH THE KASHPUR... EXCEPT FOR THE THIEF, OF COURSE!
DIDN'T ANY PROSPECTIVE BUYERS HANDLE THE STONE?

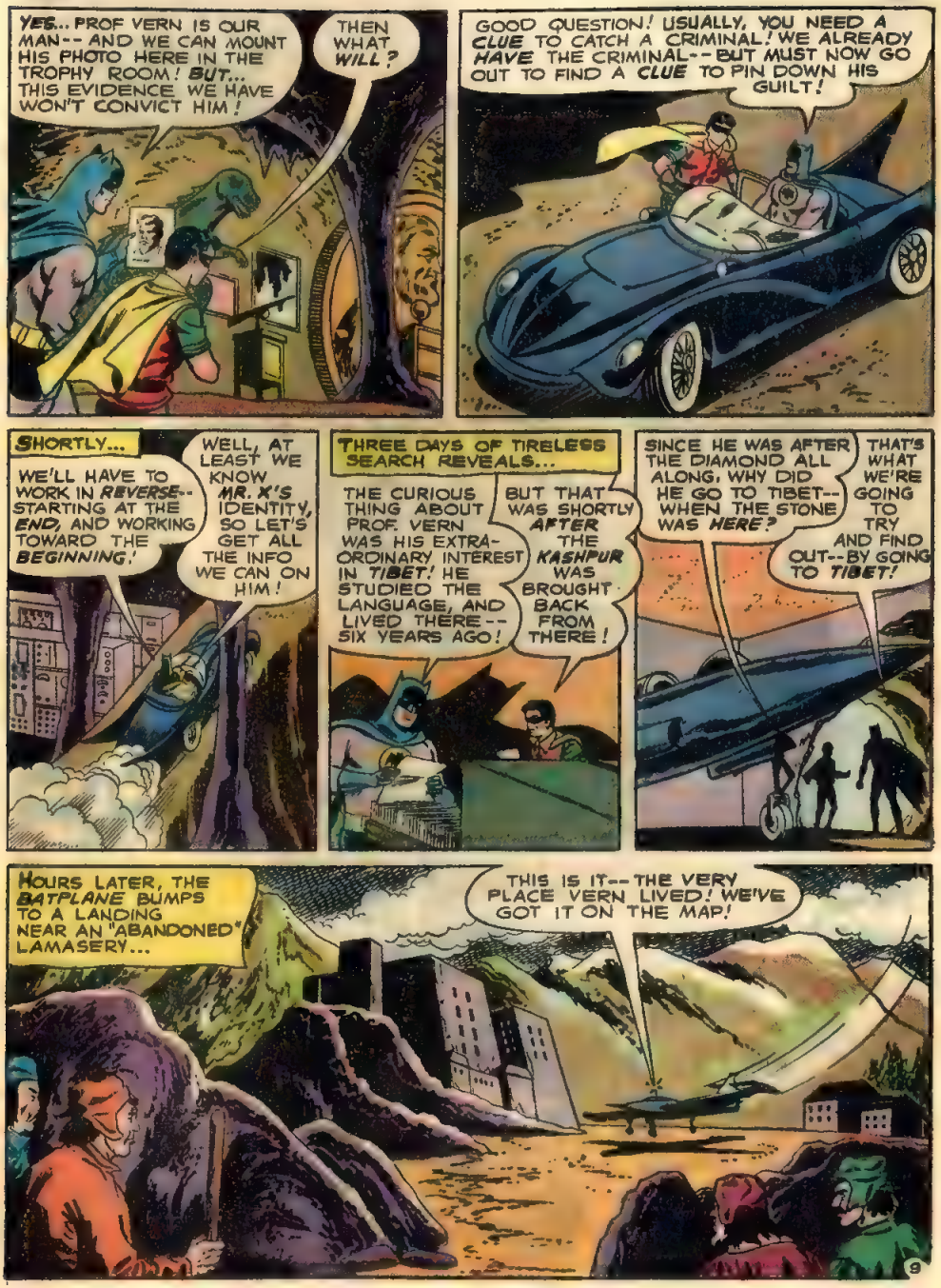

THE KASHPUR WAS NOT FOR SALE, MISS DAYE! IT HAD GREAT PUBLICITY VALUE! MERGEN WAS LINKED WITH KASHPUR IN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES THE WORLD OVER! THOUGH IT WAS ON DISPLAY-- NEITHER PRESIDENT NOR KING LAID A FINGER ON IT!

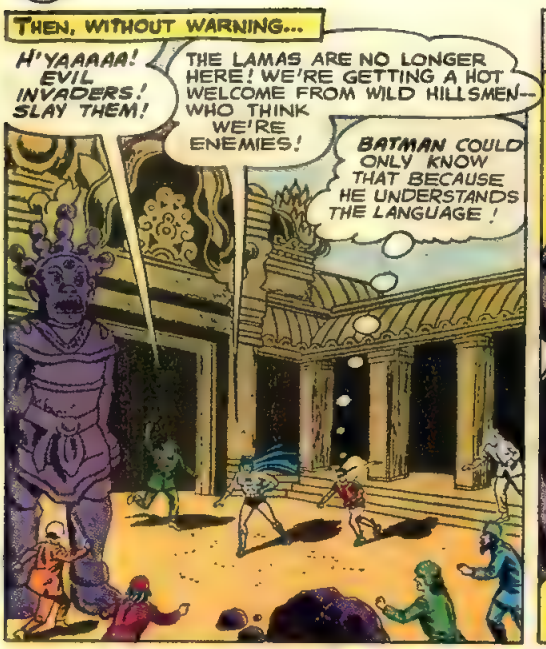

NEXT, PROF. VERN ...
I FOCUSED MY EFFORTS ON THE IMITATION STONE, HOPING TO PICK UP A TRAIL FROM WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THE "TRADEMARKS" OF ITS COUNTERFEITER...

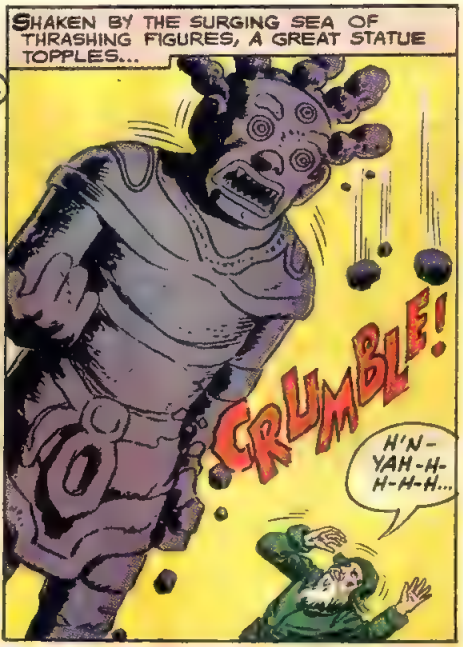

"THE CRAFTMANSHIP WAS REMARKABLE, AND I DARESAY IT RIVALED THE GENUINE STONE..."
A RARE BEAUTY, INDEED, MR. MERGEN!
HMMPH! COMPARING THIS COLOSSAL FRAUD TO THE KASHPUR IS LIKE COMPARING A CABBAGE HEAD TO A ROSE!

ANYWAY, FIVE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST GEM EXPERTS FAILED TO IDENTIFY THE SYNTHETIC STONE'S MANUFACTURER!
NOW, NEWSPAPERMAN ART SADDOWS..
I USED MY NEWSPAPER CONTACTS TO TAP PRIVATE SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN GOTHAM CITY; UPTOWN, DOWNTOWN--IN EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY...
...BUT GOT NOWHERE--NOWHERE! MR. X APPARENTLY USED NO ACCOMPLICES, BUT PULLED OFF THIS MILLION-DOLLAR DIAMOND ROBBERY STRICTLY ON HIS OWN! BUT HOW? HOW DID HE DO IT?
SLAP!
FOLLOWING SADDOWS ONE MYSTERY-SOLVING SPECIALIST AFTER ANOTHER RISES--ONLY TO ADMIT FAILURE! THEN...
WELL, BATMAN! WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?
NOTHING--NOT A THING!
WHA--AT?!
INCREDIBLE! SOME OF THE BEST CRIME-DETECTION MINDS OF THEM ALL, STYMIED BY ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS! DO WE ADMIT THEN THAT MR. X TRULY COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME?
CRIME KNOWS NO PERFECTION! WE'LL STILL DIG FOR MR. X!
NEXT DAY, AT THE WAYNE HOME, AS BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON ENTER THE SECRET ELEVATOR TO THE BATCAVE...
THE CLUB'S WRITTEN REPORTS! WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT I'VE COME UP WITH!
SOUNDS EXCITING!

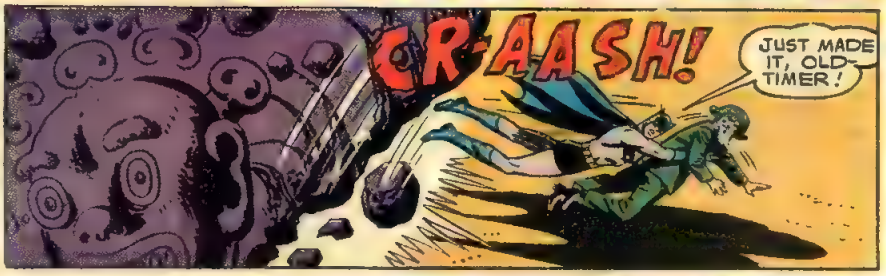
DEEP IN THE BATCAVE, WHERE BRUCE AND DICK SWITCH TO THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING ROLES...
THAT'S NEAT! A TINY TRANSISTOR TAPE RECORDER!
HIDDEN IN MY UTILITY BELT AT THE MEETING--TO RECORD THE VERBAL REPORTS FROM ALL THE MEMBERS!
I FIGURED MR. X WOULD BE AS THOROUGH ABOUT HIS VERBAL REPORT AS HE WAS WITH THE REST OF HIS CRIME! -- THAT HE'D KNOW IN ADVANCE EVERYTHING HE WOULD SAY -- TO AVOID ANY SLIP-UPS!
I WORKED ON THE BASIS THAT NOBODY WRITES A WORD-FOR-WORD REPORT EXACTLY AS HE EARLIER REPORTED IT, VERBALLY! NOW LISTEN, ROBIN...
I FOCUSED MY EFFORTS ON THE IMITATION STONE...
NOW, THE WRITTEN REPORT: I FOCUSED MY EFFORTS ON THE IMITATION STONE...
LATER...
GOLLY! EVERY WORD IN THE VERBAL REPORT WAS EXACTLY LIKE THE WRITTEN REPORT!
YES -- SO WELL MEMORIZED THAT MR. X KNEW IN ADVANCE EVERY WORD HE WOULD UTTER!
CLICK!
HE KNEW WHAT HE WOULD REPORT BEFORE HE WENT OUT ON THE CASE! HE WAS AS PRECISE ABOUT THAT AS HE WAS IN STEALING THE DIAMOND!
PROF. RALPH VERN! HE'S MR. X!
PROF. RALPH VERN

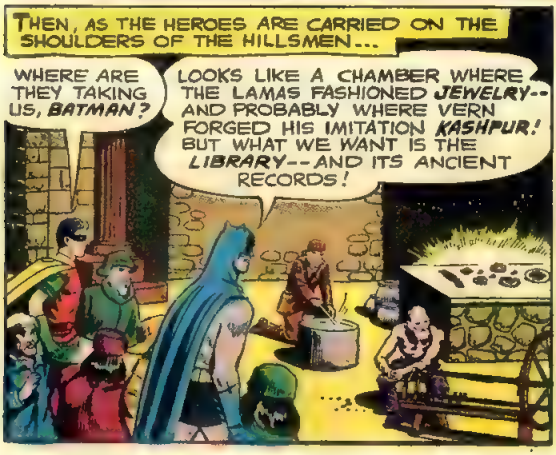

YES... PROF VERN IS OUR MAN-- AND WE CAN MOUNT HIS PHOTO HERE IN THE TROPHY ROOM! BUT... THIS EVIDENCE WE HAVE WON'T CONVICT HIM!
THEN WHAT WILL?
GOOD QUESTION! USUALLY, YOU NEED A CLUE TO CATCH A CRIMINAL! WE ALREADY HAVE THE CRIMINAL--BUT MUST NOW GO OUT TO FIND A CLUE TO PIN DOWN HIS GUILT!
SHORTLY...
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK IN REVERSE-- STARTING AT THE END, AND WORKING TOWARD THE BEGINNING!
WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW MR. X'S IDENTITY, SO LET'S GET ALL THE INFO WE CAN ON HIM!
THREE DAYS OF TIRELESS SEARCH REVEALS...
THE CURIOUS THING ABOUT PROF. VERN WAS HIS EXTRA-ORDINARY INTEREST IN TIBET! HE STUDIED THE LANGUAGE, AND LIVED THERE-- SIX YEARS AGO!
BUT THAT WAS SHORTLY AFTER THE KASHPUR WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM THERE!
SINCE HE WAS AFTER THE DIAMOND ALL ALONG, WHY DID HE GO TO TIBET-- WHEN THE STONE WAS HERE?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND FIND OUT--BY GOING TO TIBET!
HOURS LATER, THE BATPLANE BUMPS TO A LANDING NEAR AN "ABANDONED" LAMASERY...
THIS IS IT--THE VERY PLACE VERN LIVED! WE'VE GOT IT ON THE MAP!

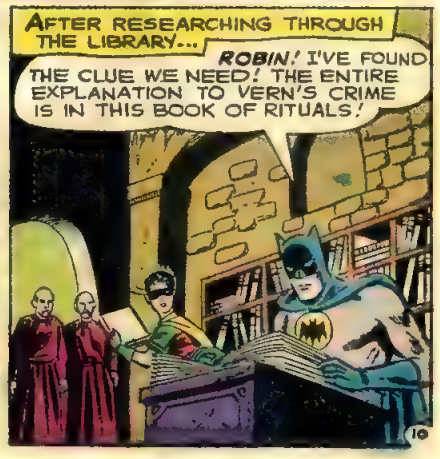

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
H'YAAAAA! EVIL INVADERS! SLAY THEM!
THE LAMAS ARE NO LONGER HERE! WE'RE GETTING A HOT WELCOME FROM WILD HILLSMEN--WHO THINK WE'RE ENEMIES!
BATMAN COULD ONLY KNOW THAT BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS THE LANGUAGE!

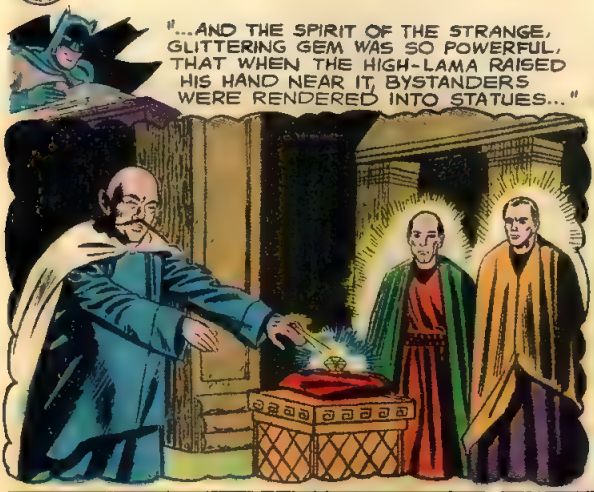


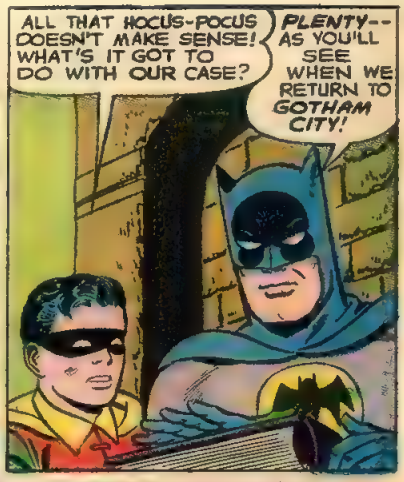
TEARING FREE FROM CLAWING HANDS, BATMAN LEAPS TO THE RESCUE..



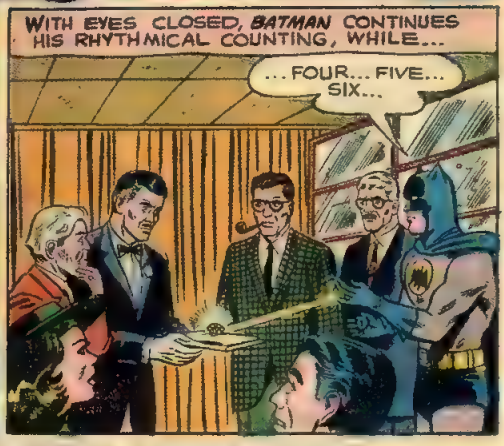

THEN, AS THE HEROES ARE CARRIED ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE HILLSMEN...
WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US, BATMAN?
LOOKS LIKE A CHAMBER WHERE THE LAMAS FASHIONED JEWELRY--AND PROBABLY WHERE VERN FORGED HIS IMITATION KASHPUR! BUT WHAT WE WANT IS THE LIBRARY--AND ITS ANCIENT RECORDS!


AFTER RESEARCHING THROUGH THE LIBRARY...
ROBIN! I'VE FOUND THE CLUE WE NEED! THE ENTIRE EXPLANATION TO VERN'S CRIME IS IN THIS BOOK OF RITUALS!


"...AND THE SPIRIT OF THE STRANGE, GLITTERING GEM WAS SO POWERFUL, THAT WHEN THE HIGH-LAMA RAISED HIS HAND NEAR IT, BYSTANDERS WERE RENDERED INTO STATUES..."


ALL THAT HOCUS-POCUS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH OUR CASE?
PLENTY--AS YOU'LL SEE WHEN WE RETURN TO GOTHAM CITY!

BACK IN GOTHAM CITY, WHERE BATMAN HAS CONVENED THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS CLUB AT MERGEN'S JEWELRY STORE...
BATMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DISPLAY THIS BOGUS DIAMOND?
IN ABOUT 36 SECONDS--BY MY STOP-WATCH--I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING! READY? ONE... TWO... THREE...
TICK TICK TICK


WITH EYES CLOSED, BATMAN CONTINUES HIS RHYTHMICAL COUNTING, WHILE...
...FOUR... FIVE... SIX...

A HALF-MINUTE LATER...
...36...37...38...
WAIT, BATMAN! YOU SKIPPED FROM 3 TO 36!
WRONG! I COUNTED OFF EVERY SECOND--BUT NONE OF YOU HEARD ME! YOU WERE IN A... A TRANCE!

A LIGHT, FOCUSED THROUGH A LENS--SUCH AS IN THIS RING--STRIKES A CERTAIN FACET OF THE DIAMOND, EMITTING A GLOW THAT STUNS AN ONLOOKER FOR HALF A MINUTE! IT'S LIKE BEING IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

ONLY ONE OTHER MAN HERE KNOWS ALL ABOUT IT--BECAUSE HE USED THE SAME STUNT WHEN HE ORGINALLY PULLED THE GEM SWITCH--DISGUISED AS AN ORIENTAL POTENTATE! PROF. RALPH VERN IS MR. X!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY DID THE MYSTERIOUS GLOW OCCUR WITH THIS IMITATION STONE?
IMITATION? NO! THIS WAS VERN'S MASTER STROKE! HIS "PERFECT" CRIME WAS TOPPED BY HIDING THE KASHPUR IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACE... HERE, WHERE NO ONE WOULD THINK OF LOOKING FOR IT! THIS IS THE REAL KASHPUR DIAMOND!
TH-THIS... IS THE KASHPUR?
YES! VERN COULDN'T RISK IT ON HIS PERSON, OR AT HIS HOME! HE WORKED THE SUBSTITION WHILE PRESUMABLY INVESTIGATING THE THEFT!
12
ALL RIGHT, BATMAN! YOU SOLVED MY "PERFECT" CRIME! BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ME? THE KASHPUR IS BACK WHERE IT BELONGS--!
THAT'S A LEGAL PROBLEM FOR COMMISSIONER GORDON AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON! BUT TWO SUCH GOOD MYSTERY ANALYSTS SHOULD SOLVE IT!
END

START YOUR OWN SECRET CLUB...
with a
Silly Putty
SECRET CODE
BRING YOUR BIKES TO THE PARK IN AN HOUR
Silly Putty
Ask for Silly Putty where you bought this comic!

Special Silver Anniversary Issue!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS
80 pg. GIANT
BATMAN
25¢
ISSUE No. 5
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SILVER ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
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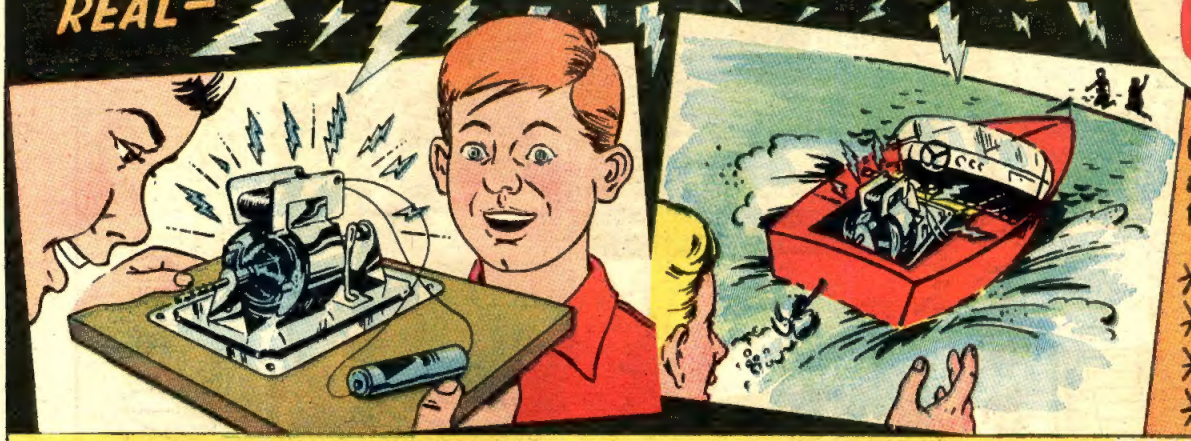

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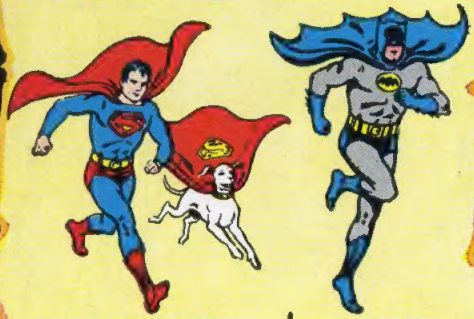

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